

June 3, 2008

LETTERS

Perils of Gene Testing (1 Letter)

To the Editor:

Your article "[Red Flags for Hereditary Cancers](#)" (Personal Health, May 27) failed to mention the importance of risk assessment by a board certified genetic counselor before and after any genetic testing.

The perils of commercial genetic testing can be mitigated by a thorough analysis of one's family history and discussion of the limitations and benefits of a test by a professional trained in medical [genetics](#). Otherwise, inappropriate testing can lead to inappropriate and detrimental consequences and unwarranted [anxiety](#).

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